



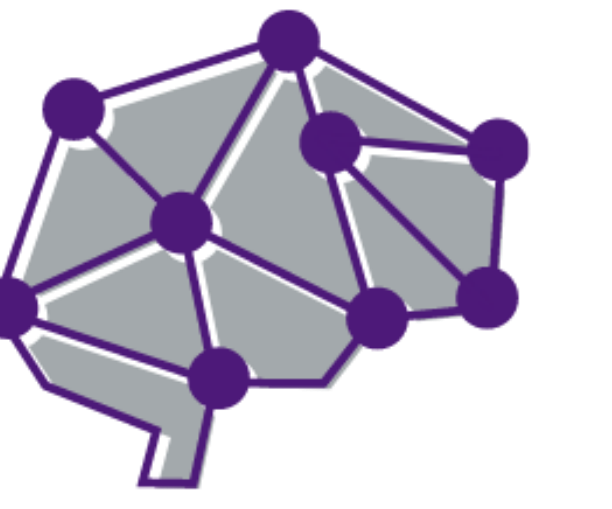
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

# An Examination of Attitudes Toward Narcan in Tarrant County

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IBR SOAR LAB

STUDENT OVERVIEW OF APPLIED RESEARCH

## Background

- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) affects millions of individuals in the United States. OUD includes the uncontrollable use of substances like heroin, morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, and more. The grip of this addiction has led to over 47,000 deaths each year in the U.S. and has been trending upward in the last two decades (Dydyk et al, 2024; Jordan & Morrisonponce, 2023).
- Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a drug used to treat opioid overdose. It works by having a high affinity for the mu-opioid receptor which results in a reversal effect of opioids and sends those with an overdose into a withdrawal and reversed state often within minutes (Adeosun, 2022; Schwieger et al., 2023)
- The goal of this study was to gain a better understanding of the average person's knowledge of Narcan, what it is used for, and if they have a particular attitude towards the use of Narcan. Increasing accessibility and use of Narcan in response to opioid overdose starts with understanding your community to better inform educational initiatives.

## Methods

- A survey was created in order to examine the community's attitude toward Narcan.
- A total of 35 participants were surveyed from the Fort Worth Central Bus Station.

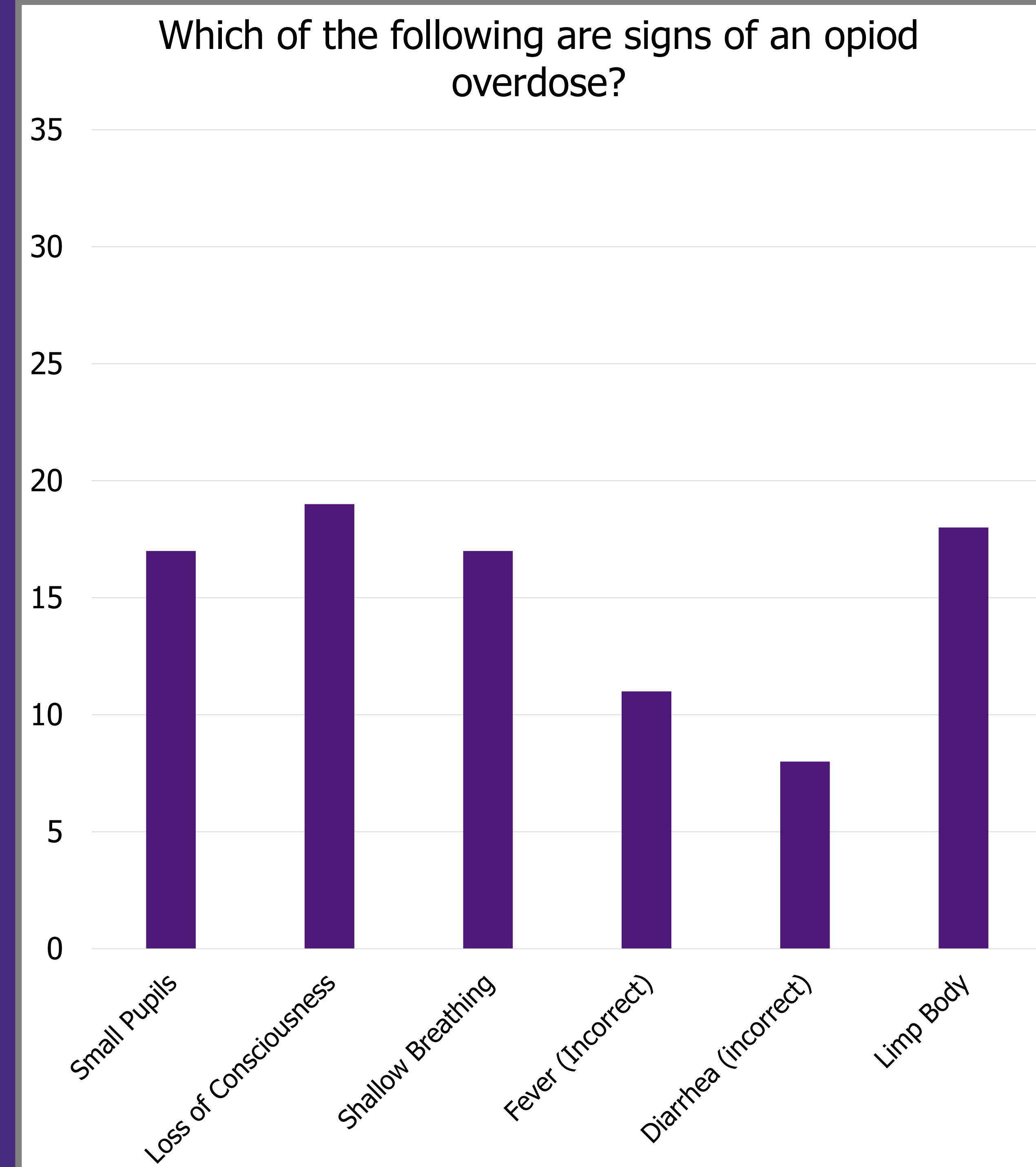
### Some Examples of Survey Questions Used:

- Have you ever witnessed or experienced an opioid overdose?
- Where do you get information about Narcan and fentanyl?
- Do you feel that drug use is a problem in Tarrant County?

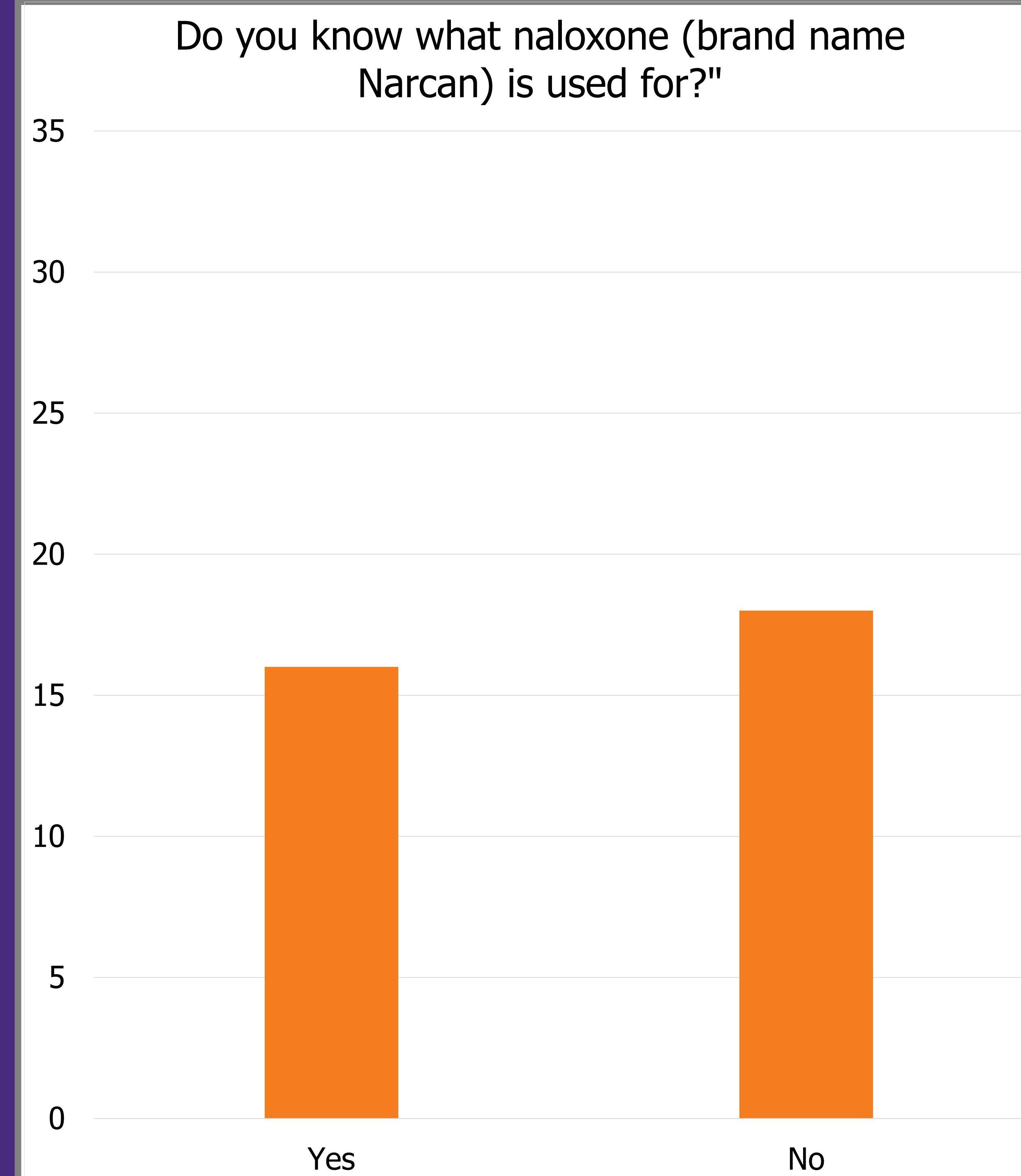
## Demographics

N = 35	
<b>Age</b>	
Mean	41.75
Standard Deviation	15.65
<b>Gender</b>	
n (%)	
Male	20 (57.1)
Female	14 (40.0)
Transgender Man	1 (2.9)
<b>Race</b>	
n (%)	
White	10 (28.6)
Black/African American	11 (31.4)
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	1 (2.9)
Other	11 (31.4)

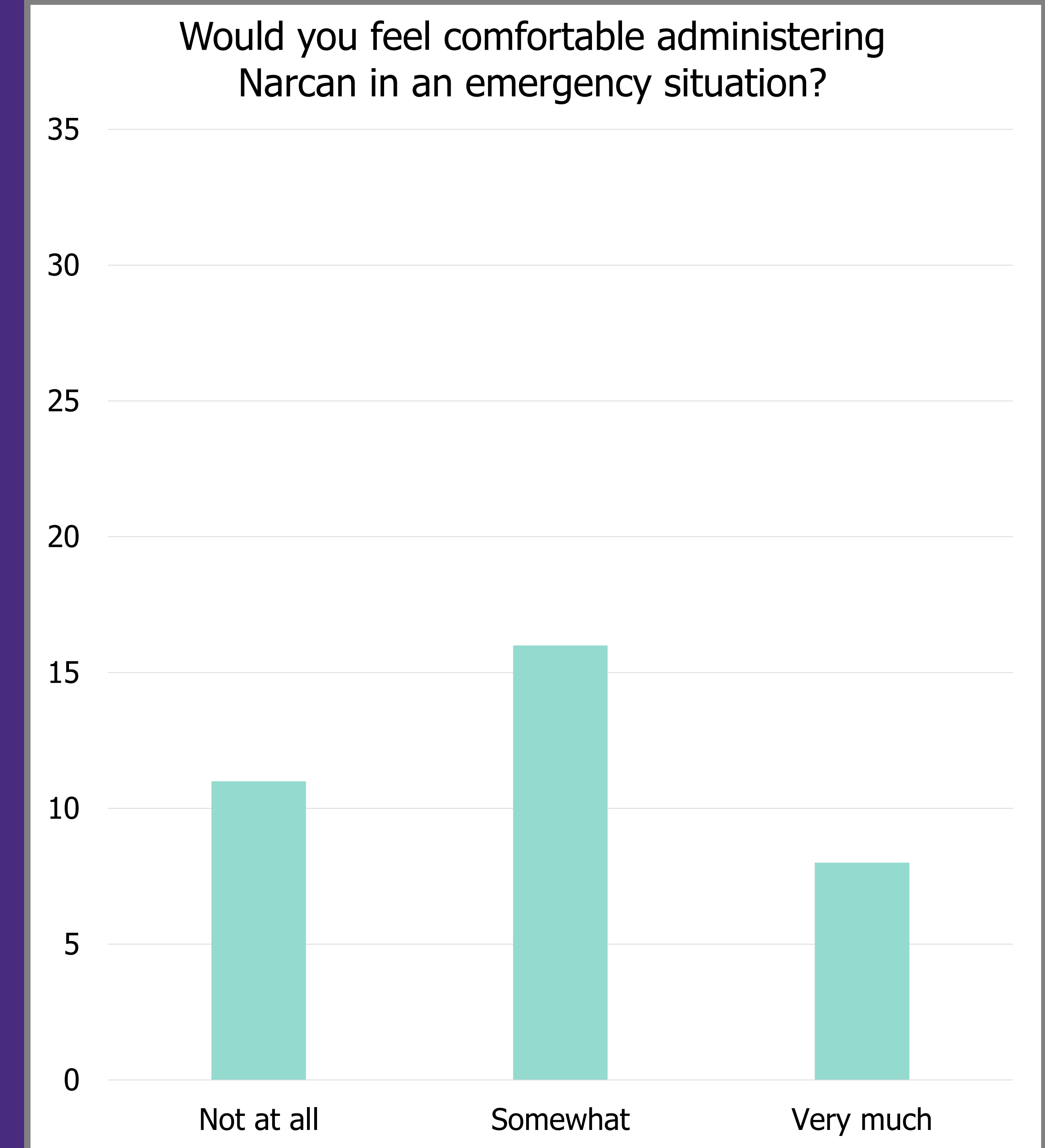
## Knowledge of Opioid Overdose Signs



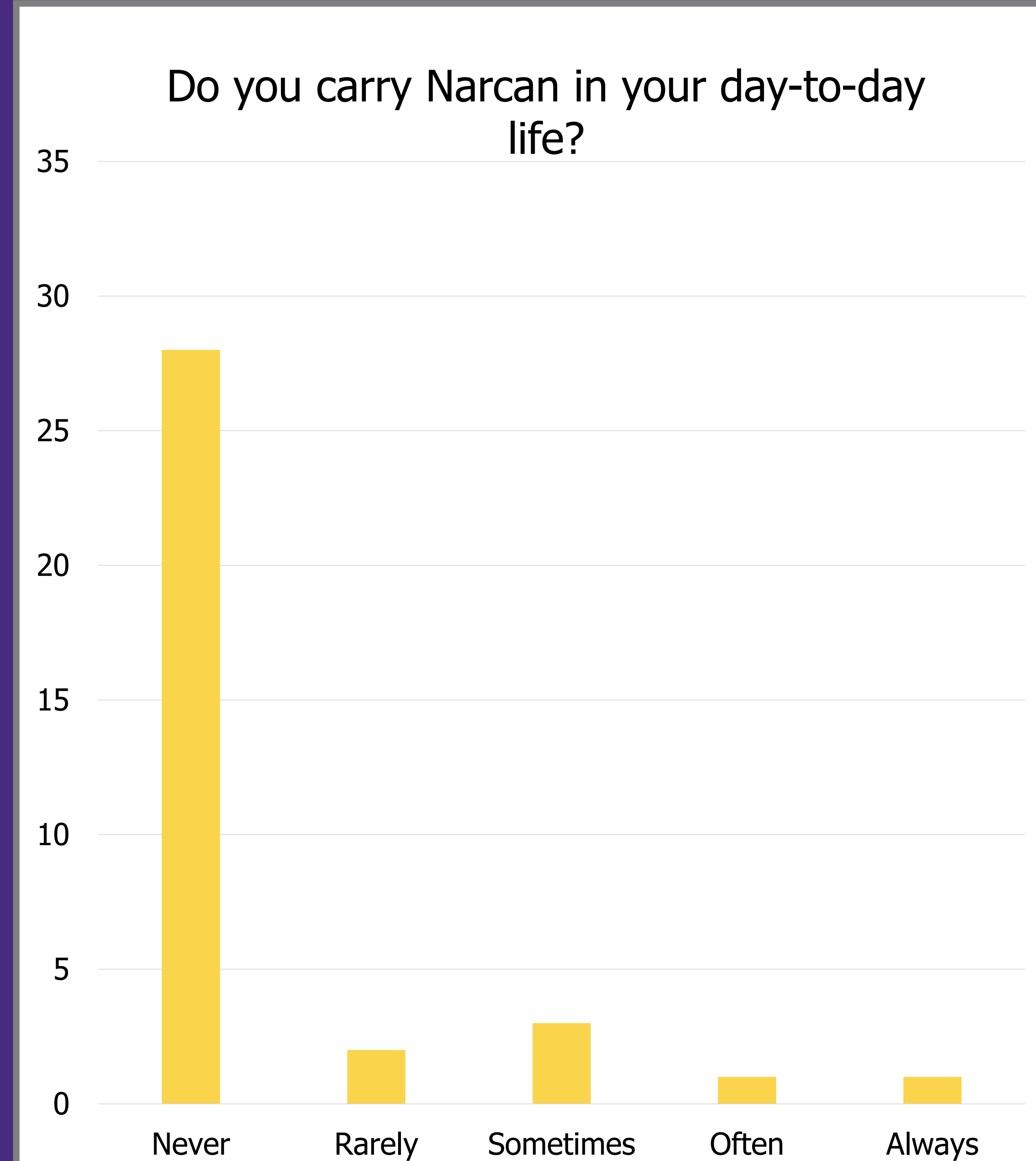
## Knowledge of Narcan



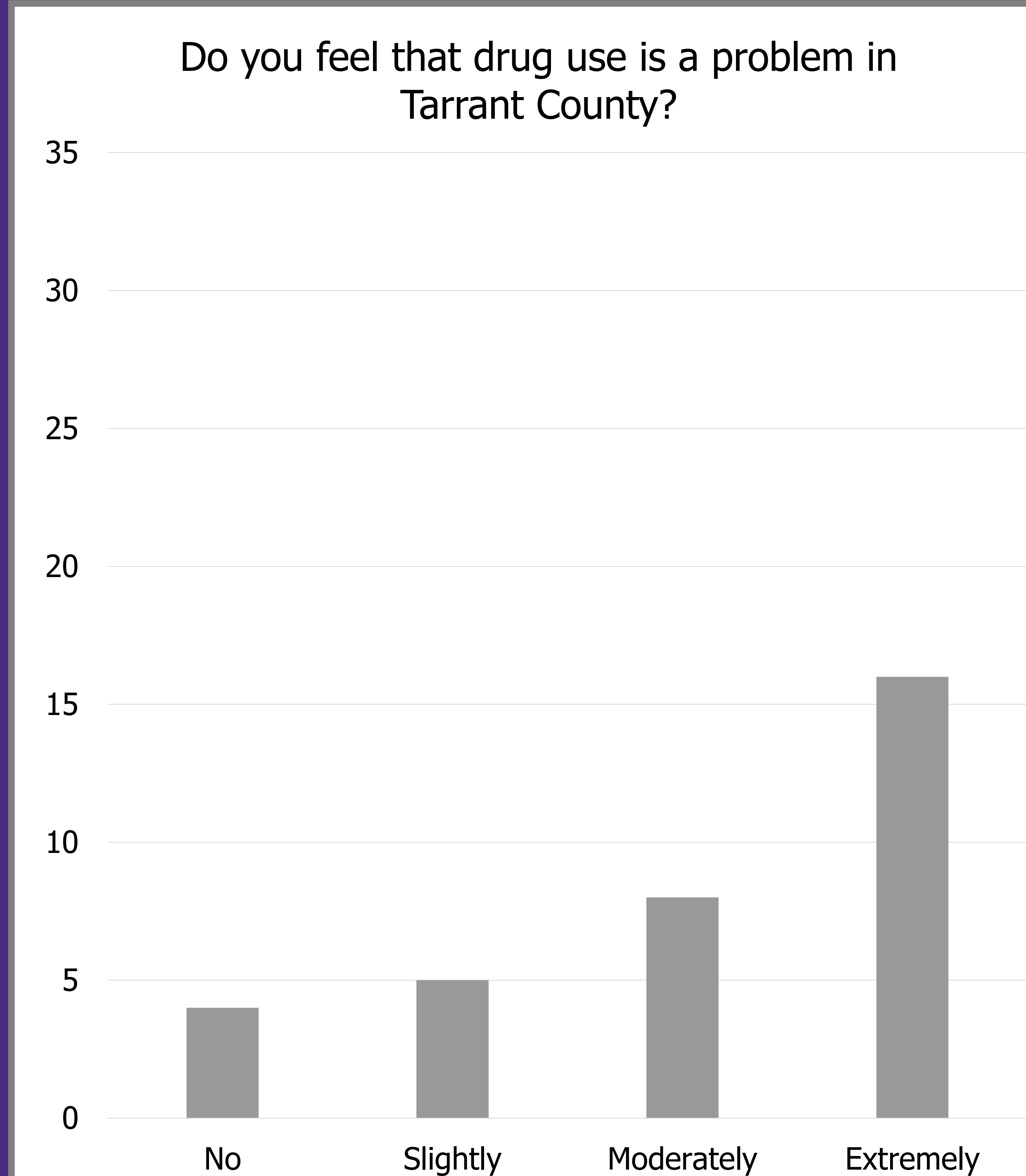
## Comfortability Administering Narcan



## Prevalence of Narcan



## Drug use in Tarrant County



## Discussion

- Overall, a large proportion of participants did not were not aware of what Narcan is used for, or felt comfortable administering it.
- Despite feeling that drug use is a problem in Tarrant County, very few participants carry Narcan.

## Future Directions

- Investigate the effectiveness of different methods for increasing public access to naloxone, such as community distribution programs, pharmacy-based initiatives, and online availability.
- Examine the impact of naloxone training programs on community members' willingness to administer naloxone during an opioid overdose emergency and their overall attitudes towards naloxone.
- Explore the potential role of naloxone in broader harm reduction strategies, including its use in preventing opioid overdoses in non-medical settings and its integration into community-based opioid misuse prevention programs.

## References

Dydyk, A. M., Jain, N. K., & Gupta, M. (2024, January 17). *Opioid Use Disorder*. PubMed; StatPearls Publishing. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK553166/>

Jordan, M. R., & Morrisonponce, D. (2023, April 29). *Naloxone*. Nih.gov; StatPearls Publishing. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK441910/>

Schwieger, L., Carpenter, J. E., Moran, T. P., Erowid, F., Cornelison, M., Evans, D., Morgan, B., & Murray, B. P. (2023). Access to, Experience with, and Attitudes towards Take Home Naloxone: An Online Survey. *Journal of Community Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-023-01321-6>

Adeosun, S. O. (2022). Stigma by Association: To what Extent is the Attitude Toward Naloxone Affected by the Stigma of Opioid Use Disorder? *Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, 08971900221097173. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08971900221097173>